

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3425

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 7498

LIMDIS

FOR AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, SP, US

SUBJECT: SPANISH BASE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: MADRID 7369

1. AS OF TODAY, THERE ARE STILL NO SIGNS THAT CORTINA AND OTHERS INVOLVED IN THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS ARE FOCUSING THEIR ATTENTION ON A RESPONSE TO THE US DRAFTS OF THE SUPPLEMENTARY AGREEMENTS. THIS APPEARS TO BE ATTRIBUTABLE LARGELY TO THEIR BEING DISTRACTED BY OTHER EVENTS, NOTABLY FRANCO'S ILLNESS AND THE SAHARA CRISIS. STILL, YESTERDAY'S NEW YORK TIMES STORY BY FLORA LEWIS IS REPORTED HERE TODAY AS A SIGN THE THE FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT ITSELF MAY BE REOPENED FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATION.

2. BEYOND THE PRELIMINARY CONTACT REPORTED REFTEL, THERE HAS BEEN NO SUBSTANTIVE CONVERSATION YET ON THE PROPOSED COMBINED MILITARY COORDINATION STAFF BY SPANISH ARMED FORCES REPS AND JUSMG. THE SPANISH MILITARY REPS INDICATED SOME DAYS AGO THAT THEY WERE NOT YET READY TO PROCEED. WE HAVE ALSO NOT YET RECEIVED FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY (BASSOLS) THE PROMISED SPANISH REVISION OF THEIR DRAFT FOR A SUPPLEMENTARY AGREEMENT ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION, NOR HAVE WE RECEIVED THE PROMISED LANGUAGE ON CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL COOPERATION. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S ENRIQUE LARROQUE
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INDICATED TO US UPON HIS RETURN FROM HIS TALKS IN WASHINGTON

LAST WEEK ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATPON THAT HE HAD MET WITH CONSIDERABLE RESISTANCE IN WASHINGTON TO HIS PROPOSALS DURING THE EARLY PORTION OF HIS TALKS, BUT INDICATED THAT HE WAS REASONABLY HOPEFUL OF ACHIEVING WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS A POSSIBLE \$70 MILLION PROGRAM COMBINING GRANTS AND EXIMBANK LOANS. AS OF LATE LAST WEEK THOSE AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE SOFA NEGOTIATIONS WERE STILL PLANNING TO GO TO WASHINGTON ON NOV 4 TO CONTINUE THOSE DISCUSSIONS.

3. THERE WAS WIDELY FAVORABLE PRESS TREATMENT HERE OF AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY'S APPEARANCE BEFORE THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, WITH MOST ACCOUNTS INDICATING PLEASURE AT THE PROSPECT OF THE AGREEMENTS BEING SUMMITTED FOR CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL. ASKED ABOUT THIS AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON OCT 24, THE INFORMATION MINISTER COMMENTED: "THE TYPE OF FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT THAT HAS BEEN SIGNED BY MINISTER CORTINA WITH MINISTER KISSINGER IS SUCH THAT IT REQUIRES THE APPROVAL OF THE AMERICAN SENATE." STABLER

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